

# The Washington Times

Entered as second class matter at the Post-office at Washington, D. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (Including Sunday)

By The Washington Times Company, THE MUNSEY BUILDING, PENNA. AVE.

FRANK A. MUNSEY, President.

R. H. TITHERINGTON, Secretary.

FRED A. WALKER, Treasurer.

One Year (Including Sunday), \$1.50.

Three Months, 50c.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1917.

## PRESIDENTIAL SUFFRAGE IN INDIANA

The legislature of Indiana passed a bill yesterday granting suffrage for Presidential electors, for most of its State and all municipal officers. This makes fifteen States won to the cause and increases the electoral vote from suffrage States from 120 to 135, nearly one-fourth of the whole.

Perhaps the organization that has been conducting the White House picketing builded better than it knew. While its attentions have been wholly devoted to the spectacular, the real suffragists, blessed by non-interference, have been going quietly ahead and achieving victories.

Maine has submitted by action of its legislature the suffrage proposition to its electorate, a constitutional amendment to be voted on in September next, and the lower house of the Minnesota legislature has voted for equal suffrage. The New York assembly by a vote of 125 to 10 again agrees to submit the question to a popular vote.

The suffrage wave seems to be reaching the high tide it attained in 1912, just before the peculiar tactics of an overzealous organization, with traditions of English militarism, and political theories based upon the British constitution, began the work that has resulted in postponing suffrage victories generally until the last few weeks. It is to be hoped that it will continue to give the States absent treatment.

## CO-OPERATION ON THE CHILD LABOR LAW

The Federal board authorized to make the rules and regulations for the enforcement of the Federal child labor act, consisting of the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor, have sent an important letter to the governors of the various States, most of whose legislatures are now in session, urging that these legislatures adopt one of two alternatives in order to secure harmony of administration and prevent the waste and conflict of a duplication of work.

There are only a few States below the general standards of the Federal law, but State enforcement of the law has often broken down because of the recognized difficulty of ascertaining the true age of the children employed. The Federal board suggests that a State board, answering to the Federal board, or some official of the State, be authorized to make the rules and regulations for ascertaining the age of children seeking employment, such a board acting in harmony with the Federal board; or it presents a standard of the proofs of age that will enable the Federal authorities to accept the certificates issued by the State authorities.

Manifestly, it will be a great inconvenience to employers and to children allowed by the Federal law to work in mines and factories if two sets of certificates have to be secured, one issued by the State and the other issued by the Federal Government. The manufacturers of several States have already seen the wisdom of such co-operation and are urging their legislatures to enact the statutes required.

## HIGH SCHOOL FRATERNITIES AND THEIR SUBSTITUTES.

The Board of Education, after full hearings and thorough consideration, resolved that the high school fraternities should go out of existence with the graduation of the present junior and senior classes from which members had already been initiated. Without discussing the merits of the proposition, it is enough to state that the board has acted and that its determination to enforce the penalty of disobedience, namely, expulsion from the schools, is manifest.

The sense of loyalty to one's fraternity is, of course, commendable. But it should be understood by high school children, and if not by their parents, that efforts to evade the regulations of the board will not avail. One of these proposals is to initiate members of the younger classes as members of "clubs" instead of "fraternities," the addition of one or more citizens of the community outside the schools, as members, making the distinction which it is thought will cover the case. As the board bases its decision upon the broad ground that the schools are democratic institutions, supported by the money of all the taxpayers, in which class distinctions of whatever kind should not be tolerated, this effort to castigate his Satanic Majesty around the decayed relic of an aristocratic vegetable will not work. The Times earnestly advises the avoidance of trouble and disgrace to pupils by obedience to the ruling of the board.

It has been the experience of many

colleges and universities that where fraternities flourish, with whatever advantages they undoubtedly possess, interest in the literary and debating societies wanes. Under the ruling of the board, it is incumbent upon that body and upon parents' associations to propose and carry out plans for the creation of such societies within the schools as shall fill the social want which the fraternities have supplied to a part of the student body.

In the high schools, two rival literary societies, with all the paraphernalia of secrecy desired, one of which every pupil would be eligible to join, would prove of immense benefit in cultivating the art of expression, in debate, in oratory, in declamation and in essay writing. Contests between these rival societies within each school, for medals and honors, and contests between the victors in all the schools for interschool prizes, would be found most stimulating. Meetings of each society could be held in school auditoriums, in successive weeks, teachers and school officers being honorary members. The high schools of today are really what the small colleges were a generation ago and many of the memories of these colleges cluster around the literary societies and in many of them the exercises were an important part of the collegiate education. The plan is well worth trying in Washington at this time.

## BRITISH ADVANCE ON BAPAUME

If the recent gains made by Haig against the German line in the direction of Bapaume had come in a single rush instead of dribbles they would be seen to constitute the most powerful purely British operation conducted since the war began. The army that failed to advance beyond the first costly rush at La Bassée in March, 1915; at Neuve Chapelle in April, 1915; that defended Ypres with difficulty later in the same month, that gained only a few square miles at Loos and failed to reach Lens in co-operation with the French in September, 1915, and who carried on the Somme offensive of 1916 only on a half-and-half basis with the French, is now at last pressing steadily onward under its own unassisted power.

In the past three weeks the British have carried the villages of Beaucourt, Beaumont, Baillécourt, Grandcourt, and the outskirts of Serre, with many other positions which were possibly as strong, but, lacking a place on the map, go unrecognized. They have occupied several square miles of territory after wresting it from the Germans, and have yet to suffer the loss of any position once thus taken. Through the action of February 18 they now stand before the village of Miraumont, west of Bapaume and the nearest point in the approach toward the town via the Ancre valley from the west.

The gains are a development of the Somme offensive of last summer. They do, indeed, take a different direction from the course of the earlier operation, which pressed eastward past and to the south of Bapaume. An interval of two months of winter inactivity also separates the present gains from the former. None the less they occur in the same region; they amplify the earlier gains which made them possible, and they are carried out against the same forces by the same means.

If the present prolongation may be counted as one with the Somme offensive of 1916, we behold the longest-sustained effort made by any party in the war at any one point and with any one objective. The Somme operation has lasted longer than the German Verdun operation in the west or the Russians' Galician drive in the east, or the British campaign in Gallipoli. It has gained more ground than any undertaking of either side on the west front since the start of the trench type of warfare. To judge from the recent developments it is still far from abatement.

Recent gains have been but slightly less rapid than those of last summer. The slower rate may be attributed to the short days, not yet sufficient in February for many hours' sustained cannonading; to the impassable mud, which delays both infantry progress and the conveyance of supplies; and finally to the fact that the French forces, formerly the predominant element on the Somme, have been withdrawn, leaving the whole burden of the operation to the British. That the attack should make fair headway under these circumstances is the conspicuous fact of the present situation in the west.

If the offensive toward Bapaume has resumed it is a sign that the western allies are satisfied with this method of trench warfare for the present, different though it be from the sudden dashes of Nivelle at Verdun, as being the best for the present moment in the region where they wish to advance. The Somme offensive method differs from the Verdun method in depending less upon a great single effort and more upon multiplied small efforts. It takes fewer prisoners and its gains of territory are made more slowly, but it calls for no such single great exertion. The smoother, gentler surface of Artois compels no such

tremendous leaps and bounds as do the successive heights that guard the Meuse. The hindrances of the season, moreover, forbid the Verdun method, even if Haig preferred it.

But the present Somme operation, if it be the best that the British on their own resources have yet done, has but a limited immediate prospect. On the Somme it is like duellists stabbing each other with very small penknives. Sooner or later one, perhaps both, must drop from exhaustion or loss of blood; but the victor suffers almost equally with the vanquished. For real, serviceable victory is needed the sword thrust, deep to the vitals, and this the Verdun method seems likelier to provide. Yet at the moment the allies are striking at Bapaume and resting at Verdun.

It may be that they hope for a German return to the offensive; another giant sacrifice, that is, of German blood on the French front; another Verdun. Or they may simply be laying the foundations for an offensive from Bapaume in the open season. Not improbably they may even hold that the process of wearing down the Germans must be continued yet a while before greater blows are struck. But likeliest of all, in view of the mysterious and as yet unfelt redoubt of the French forces, the allies, expecting to strike elsewhere, are desirous to hold the Kaiser's troops in the Somme lines, and so keep them unavailable for the coming field of battle.

## SENATOR BORAH DROPPED IN

The proper way to create law is to evolve it from the inner consciousness. There should be no doubt about that. Any attempt to adjust the statutes of a nation to the people's actual needs and to the conditions of life as it is must result in illogical and unphilosophical contrivances. It is one of the glories of our multi-gloried Congress that it legislates by inspiration.

Yet now and then a different note intrudes into the chorus. Senator Borah told this week of an actual experience he had out in the great living non-legislating world. Here is the simple narrative:

The other afternoon on my way home I dropped into a market. While there a woman came in. She was apparently the wife of a man of limited means. After pricing one article after another she seemed to be utterly astounded at the prices. Finally she turned and went from the market without making any purchase. She said to herself, "I do not know what we are to do."

The hopeful thing is this: A member of the national legislature has actually seen, noted and truly described to his fellows a condition—not a theory—in the country which they are supposed to represent. The time may come when it will be not uncommon for Senators and even Congressmen to drop into markets, shops, offices, and even homes, find out how the taxpayers and their families are actually living, and how laws passed or left unpassed actually affect them and act accordingly. Speed the day.

## FUTURE OF BELGIAN RELIEF

What would become of the inhabitants of occupied Belgium and northern France if the American agents of the Commission for the Relief of Belgium were to withdraw? It would be possible to find Netherlands or Swiss to take the place of the Americans, no doubt. The difficulty of carrying provisions over the sea to Belgium will be no greater in any case than the Germans make it; and they have never overtly opposed the receipt of provisions for Belgium as yet.

Perhaps the Teutons will feel responsibility to keep their victims alive. More likely they will take prudent care that the economic resource of a populated neighbor territory be not thrown away when it might be saved for nothing. In the first months of their conquest the invaders displayed callous feelings toward the captive populations. But since then the roll of German dead has made it increasingly unlikely that the region, if reduced to a solitude, could be repopulated with Teutons.

The next best thing is naturally to maintain the inhabitants and to make what use of them can be devised. Germany would hardly perform the obligation of feeding the Belgians from its own stores. It is hard to see why it should not continue to admit stores from America. Under these conditions, the prospect for the Belgian population, though dark, is far from hopeless.

While the New Jersey Legislature considers the repeal of the seven sisters, Congress is passing the fourteen caplanage brothers.

There is hope for the Mexican republic. The El Paso retaliatory regulation that Americans must take a bath before crossing the line shows an unsuspected vein of humor.

The secretary of the inaugural committee reports that a White House policeman has been injured by getting stuck on a picket.

The country seems to be going bonedry and more so dry as Congressional oratory for home consumption.

## Don Marquis' Column

The Kaiser has not yet broken off diplomatic relations with Gott.

My ship is an old ship and her sails are gray and torn, And in the dim and misty night she seems a thing forlorn; Her battered sides are beetle black, her decks are scarred and old, And heavy rise the musty scents from out her crumbling hold.

The young ships in the tide-way with laughing air sail by, And fair they flash their white sails against the sun-drenched sky, And fleet they run before the clouds that usher in a blow— But could a storm coerce my ship where'er she wished to go?

My ship is an old ship and her sails are torn and gray, And she's not white and beautiful nor fragile such as they; But she has sailed o'er every sea to every port of call, And on her decks make merry now the wreaths of youthful dream: —Edmund Leamy.

Trade Notes and General Statistics. Each day 107,354 more dimes are said because of fountain pens than because of telephone service.

An eighteen-carrot bracelet is worth a quart of potatoes in Maiden Lane. All the Pacific Coast fishermen, if laid end to end, would reach from the Kiel canal to the place where the Lusitania was sunk. The sentiment is growing that they should be laid that way.

Of 10,358 persons manacled by careless drivers of automobiles in New York yesterday, 1,285 persons angrily took down the number of the car and they didn't do any more about it.

At public dinners in America last week 1,507,550 persons wondered why he is a teetotaler.

The making up of 5,730,403 conjugal quarrels in America during the week ending at 3 o'clock this morning cost 6,345,001 husbands each the price of a spring suit. The kind of spring suits comes over.

Three hundred and eighteen people found pearls in oysters in New York last evening and 243 of them succeeded in trading a pearl for another oyster.

Trying to drop the thought of the high cost of food in another drink is an idea which occurred last night to 2,065,123 Americans of the upper, middle, and lower classes.

Aliens to the number of 5,003 asked to become Americans last week without stopping to think that it would make them fellow citizens of Josephus Daniels.

Nothing so pains a young mother as to have some one ask, "Is that child cutting another tooth?" when it is only a cat squalling in the alley, after all.

As the Opera House Sees It. Sir: An unexpected visitor sat on a pile of papers on my table.

"I," he said with a slight foreign accent, "am the Metropolitan Opera mouse. At the opera food for thought may be sufficient for the little groups of serious thinkers who gather there by the thousands, but the church mouse is scarcely poorer in material substance than I. Perhaps you might—I seem to beg, but—"

I brought forth the usual studio layout of crackers and cheese—and stuff. "You are very kind," he said. "A biscuit and a bit of cheese, yes, but not a drop."

He nibbled busily. "Ah! The Elmir of Love!" he exclaimed, feeling a crumb from his whiskers. Not the one that Isolde hands to Tristan, no, but L'Elmir d'Amore; there is an opera for a hungry mouse. Why, there is real food in it. I sit behind a lamp in the third bank of blue in the foot and wait for the act, which means, sir, when the curtains close. Then I scamper back to snatch what the great tenor has dropped. In Siegfried, too, there are real eggs; yes, and in Hansel and Gretel, where the gingerbread is as well as thought, and Magic Flute. But most of the stage viands are paper masks, which is edible, to be sure, but lacks—charm. Pagliacci, Traviata, Manon Lescaut, and many others have what you call 'false' foods."

At rehearsal the other day some one suggested that a timely revival would be Lully's *Hermione*, owing to the current popularity of a young lady of that name, but to me it will not be entirely successful if it does not contain a REAL banquet!"

And, snatching up two crackers, he scuttled away. —Dick Hollywood.

"That man I cure," my barber said, "is a fool who is a fool for hire. His hair is his life." "That man I cure!" my barber said, "is a fool who is a fool for hire. His hair is his life."

"That man I cure," my barber said, "is a fool who is a fool for hire. His hair is his life." "That man I cure!" my barber said, "is a fool who is a fool for hire. His hair is his life."

H. B. saw this sign on a pastry shop in upper Broadway: BUSINESS IS NOW READY FOR ICE CREAM.

SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS. Sir: In these days when the question of a universal peace is being discussed, I have a few suggestions to offer.

First, I suggest that we should all have a little more of the spirit of the American citizen. We should be more patriotic and more loyal to our country.

Second, I suggest that we should all have a little more of the spirit of the American citizen. We should be more patriotic and more loyal to our country.

Third, I suggest that we should all have a little more of the spirit of the American citizen. We should be more patriotic and more loyal to our country.

Fourth, I suggest that we should all have a little more of the spirit of the American citizen. We should be more patriotic and more loyal to our country.

## Commercial Problems As Result of European War

### A Non-Technical Explanation of the Big Questions Confronting Business Men At This Time of World's Upheaval.

By SAMUEL WANT.

It is a familiar maxim that ignorance of the law is no excuse. Likewise, subjective impossibility in connection with the carrying out of a contract is no excuse. That is to say, among the rules of law which every business man is conclusively presumed to know when he enters into a contract is the rule that where he undertakes to carry out a certain undertaking and fails through some cause not foreseen at the time he made the contract, he is nevertheless (except in a few cases) liable for damages, as in the case of a willful breach of contract.

Taking interstate business as an illustration, it is readily apparent that a contract to make certain future deliveries may become impossible of performance both as to time and place of delivery because of exigencies arising out of governmental activity affecting the mobilization of troops or war materials. These matters have first place as to the use of both transportation and terminal facilities, and no amount of urgency in connection with private transactions can be permitted to stand in the way. Yet, in the absence of a provision in a contract of sale absolving the shipper from liability in the event of such a contingency interfering with the shipment, he will be liable for damages for failure to fulfill the contract.

In like manner, the exercise by the Government of its undoubted power to fill its requirements in the highly technical branches of the army and navy service by enforcing compulsory enlistments among certain classes of workers would furnish no legal excuse to a manufacturer whose inability to carry out his contracts was due wholly to the loss of skilled help thus entailed.

Every business man whose business extends further than the sale of goods in his possession at the time, for immediate delivery, will do wisely to insert in all his contracts a reservation releasing him from the obligation to carry out the same in the event that he is prevented from doing so by inability to obtain raw materials or transportation facilities, or by reason of other conditions beyond his control.

The so-called war clause is no longer adequate. Without any declaration of war, and even without any intention to engage in hostilities being made immediately clear, conditions may at any time arise that will create in the industrial world all the paralysis of business involved in the prosecution of actual warfare.

## AVIATOR "SOARS" AT POVERTY STORY

### Rodman Law Leaps Off Hospital Cot to Deny He Is Charity Patient.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Surgeons in the Kings County Hospital had just cut a section out of the back of Rodman Law, whose dare-devil acts before the motion picture camera have thrilled millions, and he had just come out of the anaesthesia, when a nurse showed him an article in a Brooklyn newspaper yesterday afternoon to the effect that he had lost the big fortune he had made, was a charity patient in the hospital for an operation which would incapacitate him from acting, and that his family was dependent upon the charity of friends for support.

"Hell, that ain't true!" said Law. "Give me my clothes."

Despite the protests of surgeons and nurses, Law insisted on dressing and hurrying to his home, at 498 State street. What happened there is told by Law when he called up the newspaper by telephone last night.

Charity Agents Ejected. "Say," he said, "I want you to deny that story about my family depending on charity. When I got home I kicked two agents of charity societies out of the house, and since then I've been entertaining reporters who called to get a real jerking story."

"Say, I didn't lose one fortune. I've made and lost three of them, and I'm on my way to make the fourth. Of course, any fellow will get down a little when things go against him for a while, but he'll come up again. That's why I moved the family out of that fine house in Kingston avenue down here to State street. It is less expensive until I get on my feet again. The time I was hurt by falling from a parachute at Trenton three years ago has cost me a lot of money and several operations. To save \$600 in a private hospital I went to the Kings County Hospital, where I could have just as good an operation for nothing."

Uses His Full Name. "Now, that's all there is to it, except that when we moved down to State street and I went to the hospital I called myself Frederick Law. My full name being Frederick Rodman Law. My family does not need any charity, and I'm taking care of them fine. I've got a lot of contracts, and as soon as I can begin performing we'll be on our feet again. Good night. I've got to get back in bed now. They've got a hole in my back, stuffed with cotton."

Mrs. Law was Miss Florence Kimball, a graduate of Erasmus Hall High School. They have three children—Catherine, nine years old; "Bill" Law, six, and Ruth Law, six months old, named after Mr. Law's distinguished sister, Miss Ruth Law, aviator.

## ASKS GOVERNOR FOR FARM

### Pennsylvania Boy of 14 Writes Request for About 100 Acres.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 23.—Among many letters received daily by the governor are some that come from cranks and others that ask impossible things. The latest, however, a letter, written in all sincerity, came from a fourteen-year-old York county boy who wants a farm. "Can you give me a 75 or 100 acre farm," the lad writes. "My father has been an American citizen for twenty years and I was born in this country, and hope to die here. Please get me a farm near a town, please do."

The matter will be held under advisement.

## DEMOCRATS RESENT GRAYSON DEADLOCK

### Friends of Other Nominees for Office Plan to Sidetrack Doctor's Promotion.

Friends of several nominees for office, whose nominations are held up in the Senate because of the insistence of Senator Chilton that the nomination of Dr. Cary T. Grayson be disposed of this session, are becoming rebellious.

Senator Chilton, who is leading the fight for Dr. Grayson, is seeking to block action on all other nominations until the case is acted on. Republican Senator do not care particularly, because the nominees for office are a rule are Democrats. But Senator Chilton's attitude is causing feeling among some of the Democratic Senators who want their nominations confirmed before March 4.

Probabilities are that the nomination of Dr. Grayson will be sidetracked and other nominations allowed to take their course.

## WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

### Interesting Events of Importance Scheduled Today.

Address on "The Influence of Liberal Thought on American Life," by Miss Helen Nicolay and Miss Florence Spaulding, at regular meeting of Women's Alliance, All Souls' Church, Fourteenth and L streets northwest, 11 a. m.

Fifth of series of dances under auspices of All Souls' Church, 1544 Church street, 8 p. m.

Drill by cavalrymen, Fort Myer Riding Hall, 2:30 p. m.

Meeting of subcommittee on obstructions of Public Order, Division of Internal Security, Committee, Board Room, District Building, 4:30 p. m.

National Union meetings—Banquet Council, No. 466, and Dalmatian Council, 1002, night.

Meeting of Illinois Society of Washington, New Ebbitt, 8 p. m.

"Lone Duck Night," National Press Club, 8:30 p. m.

Meeting of Woman's International Missionary Society, 8:30 p. m.

Lecture on "One-sided People," by the Rev. James Sherr, Montgomery, Lincoln road, W. Church, Lincoln road and U street northwest, 8 p. m.

Twenty-fifth annual banquet of Vaughn Club of Cavalry, Baptist church, Sunday school house, Eighth and H streets northwest, 7:30 p. m.

Motion picture, "Eagle's Wings," under auspices of D. A. R., Memorial Continental Hall, 8:30 p. m.

Twelfth annual banquet of Christian Epilepsy Society of Vermont Avenue Christian Church, Sunday school room of church, 4:30 p. m.

Meeting of National Executive Council, National American Woman Suffrage Association, 1035 Rhode Island avenue, 10 a. m. to 2:30 p. m.

Address on "Anthropology and War," by Arvedson, 2:15 and 5:15 p. m.

Lecture on "The Jewish National Society of Keep Wells, parish hall, St. John's Church, 8 p. m.

Memorial Service, No. 11, Hope, No. 20, Capital, No. 11, Royal Arch Masons; Takoma, No. 12, St. John's Lodge, No. 11, Eastern Star.

Odd Fellows—Central, No. 1, Phoenix, No. 25, Martha, Washington, No. 1, Dorcas, No. 4, Reliance.

Knights of Pythias—Synagogue, No. 10, Rathbone-Superior, No. 25, Rathbone Temple, No. 4, Pythian Sisters.

Amusements. Reliance-Guy Bates Post, in "The Marsequander," 8:15 p. m.

New National-Mittell, in "Pom-Pom," 8:15 p. m.

Poll's-New Poll Players, in "It Pays to Advertise," 2:15 and 5:15 p. m.

B. F. Keith's-Vaudeville, 5, 8, and 11:15 p. m. Gayety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 5:15 p. m.

Loew's Columbia-Photoplays, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Strand-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m. Garden-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Tomorrow. Illustrated lecture, "Old-New Santa Fe Round-about," Home Club, by E. J. Ward, 8:15 p. m.

Regular meeting of Ashlar Club of Master Masons, old Masonic Temple, 7:30 p. m.

## LETTERS TO TIMES FROM ITS READERS

### Agrees With The Times That Talk of War Referendum Is Folly.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: In your editorial of February 20 you gave what might be termed a logical and common sense view of the so-called referendum on war.

You term it "folly." Indeed, that is hardly forceful enough, the whole affair is absurd, not only would a delay, but the very idea of a vote is ridiculous.

When William Jennings Bryan practically elected Wilson as President he evidently had some degree of trust in him, and now, when the crisis arises, and unity (as you well put it) is demanded above all things, he comes out with a referendum. Does that indicate trust? Indeed, the estimable W. J. B. has contradicted himself most disastrously. He has shown his true colors by saying that a referendum is a "vote" on the movement of the Government. He takes this referendum in the same manner as he has taken everything—so though it was a pink tea. His idea makes one think of war as a club would think of having a banquet, taking a vote to see whether they would have a banquet or not, when it shall be given, and who shall be invited.

Who wants war? No one; too plainly and forcibly have the horrors of the world war been brought to our minds, and we realize only too well the futility of it all. But when national honor and the future prestige of the United States are at stake there is no time to waste upon the "vox populi," that said "vox" having been undermined by demagogues' fanciful ideas, the "vox populi" elected our President, and will stand by him, despite the ravings of idiotic Utopian pacifists. One man suggested "interfering" W. J. B. I would suggest an alliance.

C. O. BACH.

Washington, Feb. 23.

Denies Democracy Is by Nature Inefficient for War.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: Mr. Greeley said that a failure by constant repetition acquires a sort of hold on the public mind.

Have you any other foundation for the statement that "a democracy is by nature inefficient for war?" Was Athens ever as eminent under any other form of government? The republic of France conquered and extended her frontiers to the Alps and the Rhine. She gave to monarchy the great instrument, conscription. Monarchy failed absolutely. Monarchy originated nothing to compare with conscription, and used its instruments so poorly that France, after all her sacrifices, sank back, losing all except what the republic had given her.

Monarchy was given another trial and lost Alsace-Lorraine and immense treasure. What little practice and credit France saved from the wreck she owed to the republican government of national defense, which might have done much better if a general of the monarchy had not surrendered Metz and let loose an overwhelming force at the most critical moment.

There are no absolute monarchies, and it is doubtful whether the methods of the great European powers differ very essentially, except possibly England. E. P. BENDLETON.

Washington, Feb. 22.

Suggests Committee of American War Military.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: I have an idea which may be of considerable value to the United States, and I wish to submit it for your consideration.

I am of the opinion that it would be an excellent thing to select a number of the accredited American war correspondents, who have had much experience, especially in the present European war, to act as an advisory board with the different official war preparation committees.

Half a dozen of the leading war correspondents could give us more practical suggestions in one day than half a hundred so-called "military experts" could give us in one year.

Men like Frederick Palmer who have seen everything of importance on the different battle fronts and who have the unusual ability to properly observe what they see, can surely give this country pointers of tremendous value. These men, the reliable ones, who have made a deep study of war from every side, can assist greatly in helping us to avoid many of the horrible mistakes made by the warring nations of Europe during the past two and a half years.

By all means let us get together a committee of war correspondents as quickly as possible. I understand that there are quite a number of them in America at the present moment.

I have mentioned Mr. Palmer's name simply because of the fact that he is the only absolutely reliable war correspondent, of vast experience, with whom I have come in contact. I have heard him lecture and I have read his books and I for one feel certain that he should be one of the first to be selected for an advisory board such as I have suggested.

39 East Jackson Boulevard.